

# ALWAYS YES!

## STRONGER

Week of May 5, 2019

Stronger • 2 Corinthians 1:12-2:17 • Message 2

*God's power is perfected in weakness!*

### ICEBREAKER

How do you feel when someone tells you they will do something, but then they don't or do something different?

How do you feel when you have to change your plans, but the other person involved gets upset with you?

### BACK STORY .. 2 CORINTHIANS 1:12-2:11

Read 1 Corinthians 16:5-9 and 2 Corinthians 1:12-17. After sending 1 Corinthians, Paul changed his mind about his travel plans. What stands out to you from his account?

Read 2 Corinthians 1:23-2:4. Paul's new plans were to make two visits to Corinth, but the first visit turned "painful" so he changed his plans again. He left and wrote a harsh letter instead of returning. What do you notice in this section?

Read 2 Corinthians 2:5-11. Apparently, the "painful" visit was painful because an unnamed person "caused grief" for Paul and the church. However, Paul's harsh letter prompted the "majority" of the church to "punish" that man. What do you think of all that? Have you ever experienced a church doing something like that?

What should the church do to the man now? Why? What do you think of that?

### A DEEPER TRUTH .. 2 CORINTHIANS 1:18-22 & 2:14-17

Read 2 Corinthians 1:18-22. Paul's changing plans make him look fickle, but he wants us to know that God is not fickle. What does this passage say to you?

Read 2 Corinthians 2:14-17. Paul is thankful that God is the always victorious God always leading his people into victory. What does it say to you that Paul, despite his hardships, feels that God is always leading him in victory?

Paul uses a specific word in v. 15 ("aroma") that always means "the fragrance of sacrifice" in the Bible. What does that metaphor say to you? What does it mean to smell like sacrifice? What does it mean to smell like Christ?

Paul asks an interesting question in v. 16. "Who is equal to such a task?" But he doesn't give us a direct answer. What do you think the answer is?

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